



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EDT (NOAA)

### **Agricultural Weather Highlights - Friday - December 20, 2002**

- ***In the West***, precipitation is returning to the ***Pacific Coast States***, further improving high-elevation snow packs and valley soil moisture reserves. However, heavy snow is disrupting travel through mountain passes, while flash flooding and high winds are concerns in valley and coastal locations.
- ***On the Plains***, soil moisture remains adequate for pastures and winter grains from ***Texas into south-central Kansas***. Meanwhile, mild, dry weather prevails on the drought-affected ***northern and central High Plains***, where much of the winter wheat crop remains exposed and vulnerable to potential weather extremes.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, breezy conditions and snow showers linger across the ***upper Midwest***, while mild, dry weather prevails elsewhere in the region.
- ***In the South***, scattered showers and thunderstorms are confined to the ***Atlantic Coastal region***. Although dry weather has returned elsewhere in the ***South***, wet soils continue to hamper fieldwork.

**Outlook:** Showers and thunderstorms will accompany a cold front today across the ***Atlantic Coast States***, while another strong Pacific storm system will bring locally heavy precipitation and strong, gusty winds to the ***western U.S.*** During the weekend, a weak disturbance will provide light rain and snow showers to the ***Mississippi and Ohio Valleys***, while snow showers will linger across the ***Great Lakes*** and ***upper Midwestern States***. A stronger disturbance will begin to develop across the ***South*** by December 24. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for December 25-29 calls for drier-than-normal weather across the ***nation's northern tier from Montana to Maine***, while above-normal precipitation is forecast in the ***West, southern Plains, Delta, Southeast, and Mid-Atlantic region***. Colder-than-normal weather is forecast for the ***Southwest*** and much of the ***East***, while above-normal temperatures are expected across the ***northern and central Plains and western Corn Belt***.

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